

MPSERS - Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System

Michigan PTA does not support HB 4657 or SB 401 that propose closing the Pension Plus Program of the Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System (MPSERS). Michigan PTA recognizes that the educational opportunities for students in the public schools in our state are highly dependent on the quality of instructional personnel. PTA recognizes educator recruitment, credentials, and compensation as critical investments in children. PTAs must encourage and support adequately funded teacher and staff compensation and recruitment programs. These programs must be designed to initiate and strengthen professional excellence in the classroom.

Michigan PTA supports continuous improvement in all aspects of public education. PTA supports reducing costs, and maximizing the reach of each tax dollar spent in public education - with the intent of maximizing the dollars directly impacting student achievement. Michigan PTA does not support cost reductions that negatively impact teacher quality, classroom resources or instruction, teaching techniques, technology, or parent and community involvement.

Legislators are currently reviewing a plan that would close the school employee pension system to new hires. Not only does the proposal cost taxpayers MORE, and negatively impact K-12, community college and higher education funding, it negatively impacts an already growing educator shortage.

The up-front costs of closing the hybrid pension program to new hires are staggering (requiring an estimated additional \$500 million in the first full year alone, and up to \$4 billion in the first 5 years) and an unnecessary waste of resources on a system that's already fully funded, currently working to provide benefits, and pay down debt.

The proposed changes to MPSERS does not achieve a cost savings, nor provide an incentive for educators to enter or remain in the profession.

Every day, educators are leaving the profession because of financial pressures – and fewer and fewer students are enrolling in colleges of education to replace them.

Michigan PTA supports fair compensation for our teachers and staff. Michigan PTA supports cost-effective improvements that maximize the reach of public school funding while maintaining (or improving) the quality of teaching and education in Michigan public schools.

Please contact your local representative and tell them to vote NO on House Bill 4657 or Senate Bill 401. Click [HERE](#) or house.michigan.gov to find your state Representative.